

# BULLETIN

HALF TERMLY NEWSLETTER

February 2022



Nurturing inclusive learning communities

## A Wonderful Christmas!

### A Wonderful Christmas Eve

By Holly O

Stepping out of my small cottage, the snow crunching at me as I go, I look upon the now snow surrounded village I live in. Smells of hot chocolate, peppermint and fire smoke dance in and out of my nose warming me inside to out.

Softly, in the distance carol singers could be heard among the cold, crisp gusts of wind. Setting off in the glistening snowflakes, the church bell tolls 11. Slowly, I turn to look at the wonderful tree, which lights up on the last toll of the bell like clockwork. Surrounding it, were stables and other cottages with glistening lights so beautiful, it held my gaze for a while. Now, looking in the distance at all the snow coated trees, I feel calm and serene. What a wonderful Christmas Eve.



## Christmas Lunches!



**Save the Children**

Students were invited to come to school wearing their Christmas Jumpers on 15<sup>th</sup> December to help raise money and awareness for the charity **save the children**. Thank you to everyone who donated, we managed to raise an impressive **£78.40**

Before Christmas students across the school cooked their own Christmas lunch! Parents/carers, family members and Trustees were invited in to join us for a Christmas Lunch and we were pleased to be joined by lots of parents/carers, family members and two of our Trustees, Gary Cox and Jem Greenwell. Thank you to all those parents/carers and family members that were able to make it to the Christmas lunch!

*To all the staff at Ethos College, Thank you for the amazing job you've done all year. Have some well earned rest over Christmas. I am so proud to be part of your academy. Best wishes Gary Cox (Trustee")*



# Laura Griffiths Award!



'As a family we would like to say a huge 'thank you' for asking us to attend the assembly before Christmas. The day was such an emotional day but Laura's memory lives on. She may not be with us physically but she will never be forgotten. Your words and the award means more than you would ever believe. So thank you'

In December 2019, Ethos College staff and pupils were devastated at the news that a member of the team, Laura Griffiths, passed away suddenly over the Christmas break. Tragically, Laura suffered complications during routine surgery and passed away shortly afterwards.

Laura was a wonderful colleague and an integral part of the Ethos team and was dedicated to supporting young people across Kirklees.

At Ethos College, we want Laura's memory to live on and have therefore created 'The Laura Griffiths Award' in Laura's memory to recognise young people for their achievements in the areas in which Laura was extremely passionate about.

The award will be presented twice a year and will recognise pupils for:

- Personal achievement
- Overcoming barriers
- SEMH Development
- Personal growth
- Developing character
- Personal excellence

At our December celebration event, we were extremely privileged to be joined by Laura's close family who presented the award to our first worthy winner, Evie Senior.

Evie's journey with Ethos College has been truly remarkable. From the early days of year 10, when there was little communication or engagement between Evie and school, it has been a joy to watch her confidence build and to be able to support Evie to become the happy, conscientious young lady she has blossomed into.

Evie's commitment to improving her attendance and building her resilience and confidence paid off when she achieved excellent grades at the end of year 10. Since then, Evie has demonstrated her determination to succeed in both her studies and self-development. We are extremely proud of Evie and how far she has come on her Ethos journey.

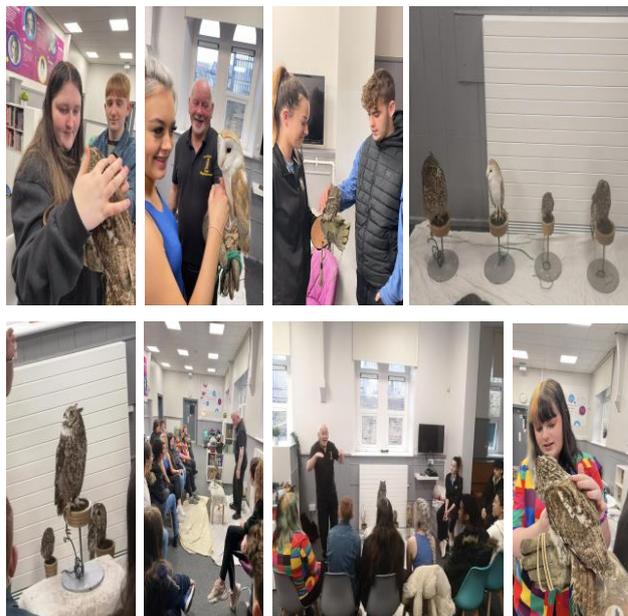
## Student Workshops

*'We were so lucky to see these beautiful Owls up close and get to stroke and hold them. Thank you Steve for a wonderful afternoon'*

### Owl Workshop

Following the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch preparations making bird feeders, we were lucky to have a visit from Steve and his owls from the Yorkshire Owl Experience.

Our young people listened well and learnt about the different types of owls, from Barn Owls to Indian Owls, their diet and habitats. We had a hands on experience with the owls, the young people had the opportunity to hold Charlie the cheeky Little Owl and stroke the feathers of both Jack and George. The young people were also able to see Kasper the Indian owl in flight which they were impressed by!



### Chocolate Workshop

Group 2 had the pleasure of participating in a chocolate workshop hosted by the wonderful Ruki from Millie's Hayfield. Students started the session by learning about the roots of Chocolate and how to pick the right type of chocolate for the job. Students had a lot of fun taste-testing chocolate, including a brand-new chocolate called Ruby - which was pink and had no additional flavourings but naturally tasted like berries! It definitely went down well with Group 2. After this, students made hot chocolate bombs filled with ganache flavoured according to their choice. They also learnt the skill of "tempering" chocolate to seal their creations. It was the perfect sweet treat!



### Prison Me No-way!

Just before Christmas we were joined in school by Prison Me No Way who are charity that work with current serving offenders and offenders that have recently been released from prison that who aim to make young people aware of the importance of making good choices and avoid becoming involved in criminal behaviour. We were lucky enough to be joined by both current serving prisoners and prisoners that had recently been released from prison who shared their own stories with students. It was really powerful to hear these stories first-hand and we have no doubt they will have a positive impact on pupils.



## Wear Blue Day!

Students wore blue today to support the Huddersfield Town Foundation, who provides the young people with their breakfast on a Morning – Wearing blue is a token of their appreciation. As some of you may already know, Mandy Taylor who set up our breakfast club, died last month at the age of 53. She was a massive support to Ethos College when she worked for the Foundation, and she has just been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list.



## Online CSE/A on the Increase and New Website

In their latest annual report, the Internet Watch Foundation have revealed new figures which are deeply concerning. The figures from the 2020 annual report were bad enough, but their newest figures re-iterate the fact that this is an area which is sadly getting much worse and offenders are targeting younger children.

· In 2020 the IWF investigated 299,600 reports of which 153,350 were identified as containing images and videos of children being abused. In 2021 the IWF investigated 361,000 reports of which 252,000 were identified as containing illegal material.

· 182,000 reports included self-generated imagery/videos which is an increase of 168% over 2020.

o Self-generated imagery of 7-10 year olds tripled. This is the fastest growing age group, in 2020 there were 8,000 instances which has had a 235% increase in 2021 to 27,000 instances. To help combat this the government have created a new website in partnership with NSPCC to give advice and support to parents. There is also some guidance for professionals too.

The IWF article can be found here <https://stopabusetogether.campaign.gov.uk>



## School Council

During the school council meeting, students discussed charities that they would like to raise funds for. Charities mentioned were **Andy's man club** and **Beau's Fight Against Cancer**.

They are both quite local charities.

**Beau's fight against cancer** is on social media at the moment. Beau is a little girl, she lives in Robert town and is fighting a rare type of cancer. Her family are trying to raise £300,000 by April to get her to America for pioneering treatment.

**Andy** is a man who took his own life and his friends and family set up a men's mental health support group to bring awareness and support to local men who are suffering with their mental health.

The students discussed possible ways to raise money, some of the idea's mentioned were a run, a bike ride, a none stop bike ride on an exercise bike in the hall.

### Prom

Prom was spoken about. It has kindly been booked by Jack Formal invites will follow to all year 11 students including medical. The prom will be held on **24th June at Almondbury Cricket club**. Year 11 leavers hoodies will be given out at the prom. Themes and ideas for the prom will be discussed at the next school council meeting.

## Holocaust Day

### Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) on 27 January

The day to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

